

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A digital data distribution system, comprising
a distribution server that distributes digital data;
a receiving device that receives the digital data sent from said distribution
server;

a storage media in which the digital data that said receiving device has
received is written; and

an adapter that writes in said storage media the digital data that said
receiving device has received, wherein

said receiving device includes

communication means for accessing said distribution server,
browsing means for browsing and responding to information sent from
said distribution server, and
adapter connection control means for controlling connection with said
adapter,

said storage media includes a media ID, which is information specific to
said storage media and cannot be tampered with, said media ID being able to
uniquely identify said storage media,

said adapter includes

secure communication means,
an adapter ID that uniquely identifies said adapter,
adapter ID detecting means for extracting said adapter ID and sending
said adapter ID to said distribution server,
media ID detecting means for extracting said media ID from said
storage media and sending said media ID to said distribution server,
storage media access means for writing and reading data in and from

said storage media, and
media access process control means for controlling the writing and
reading in and from said storage media by said storage media access
means,
said distribution server includes
secure communication means,
sending and receiving means for sending and receiving information
and the digital data to and from said receiving device,
a distribution front end for creating information to be sent to the user
and processing accesses by the user,
a user administration database that stores user IDs and account
information of related users,
a digital data administration database that stores storage location
information and use conditions of digital data to be distributed,
an obtained rights administration database that stores information
regarding a right to receive distribution of digital data that each user
has obtained,
a history database that stores information regarding digital data that
has been distributed to users in the past,
an adapter administration database that stores adapter IDs of
adapters that each user uses,
a storage media administration database that stores media IDs of
storage medias that each user uses,
distribution digital data storage means for storing encrypted digital
data and decryption keys for decrypting the encrypted digital data,
key encryption means for encrypting said decryption key stored in said
distribution digital data storage means, using said media ID sent

from said media ID detecting means, and digital data distribution means for sending to said receiving device the encrypted digital data and the encrypted decryption key based on a direction from said distribution front end, the encrypted digital data being stored in said distribution digital data storage means, the decryption key being encrypted by said key encryption means, said secure communication means of said adapter and said secure communication means of said distribution server communicate with each other, thereby establishing a secure communication path between said adapter and said distribution server,

the communication between each structural element within said adapter and each structural element within said distribution server is conducted through said secure communication path that has been established,

said distribution front end authorizes a user based on said adapter ID sent from said adapter ID detecting means, and

said distribution front end determines whether the digital data with respect to which distribution is requested can be distributed, by referring to said obtained rights administration database, said history database, said digital data administration database, and said storage media administration database, in order to execute processes in response to a request for distribution of digital data from the authorized user.

2. A digital data distribution system, comprising a distribution server that distributes digital data; a receiving device that receives the digital data sent from said distribution server; a storage media in which the digital data that said receiving device has

received is written; and

an adapter that writes in said storage media the digital data that said receiving device has received, wherein

 said receiving device includes

 communication means for accessing said distribution server,

 browsing means for browsing and responding to information sent from said distribution server, and

 adapter connection control means for controlling connection with said adapter,

 said storage media includes a media ID, which is information specific to said storage media that cannot be tampered with, the media ID being able to uniquely identify said storage media,

 said adapter includes

 secure communication means,

 an adapter ID that uniquely identifies said adapter,

 adapter ID detecting means for extracting said adapter ID and sending said adapter ID to said distribution server,

 media ID detecting means for extracting said media ID from said

 storage media and sending said media ID to said distribution server,
 key encryption means,

 storage media access means for writing and reading data in and from said storage media,

 media access process control means for controlling the writing and reading in and from said storage media by said storage media access means,

 said distribution server includes

 secure communication means,

sending and receiving means for sending and receiving information and the digital data to and from said receiving device, a distribution front end for creating information to be sent to the user and processing accesses by the user, a user administration database that stores user IDs and account information of related users, a digital data administration database that stores storage location information and use conditions of digital data to be distributed, an obtained rights administration database that stores information regarding a right to receive distribution of digital data that each user has obtained, a history database that stores information regarding digital data that has been distributed to users in the past, an adapter administration database that stores adapter IDs of adapters that each user uses, a storage media administration database that stores media IDs of storage medias that each user uses, distribution digital data storage means for storing encrypted digital data and decryption keys for decrypting the encrypted digital data, and digital data distribution means for sending to said receiving device the encrypted digital data and the decryption key that are stored in said distribution digital data storage means based on a direction from said distribution front end, said key encryption means encrypts the decryption key using said media ID detected by said media ID detecting means, the decryption key being distributed by said digital data distribution means, said storage media access

control means writing the decryption key encrypted by said key encryption means in said storage means by controlling said storage media access means,

 said secure communication means of said adapter and said secure communication means of said distribution server communicate with each other, thereby establishing a secure communication path between said adapter and said distribution server,

 the communication between each structural element within said adapter and each structural element within said distribution server is conducted through said secure communication path that has been established,

 said distribution front end authorizes a user based on said adapter ID sent from said adapter ID detecting means, and

 said distribution front end determines whether the digital data with respect to which distribution is requested can be distributed by referring to said obtained rights administration database, said history database, said digital data administration database, and said storage media administration database, in order to execute processes in response to a request for distribution of digital data from the authorized user.

3. A digital data distribution system, comprising
 a distribution server that distributes digital data;
 a receiving device that receives the digital data sent from said distribution server;

 a storage media in which the digital data that said receiving device has received is written; and

 an adapter that writes in said storage media the digital data that said receiving device has received, wherein

 said receiving device includes

communication means for accessing said distribution server,
browsing means for browsing and responding to information sent from
said distribution server, and
adapter connection control means for controlling connection with said
adapter,

said storage media includes a media ID, which is information specific to
said storage media and cannot be tampered with, the media ID being able to
uniquely identify said storage media,

said adapter includes

secure communication means,
an adapter ID that uniquely identifies said adapter,
adapter ID detecting means for extracting said adapter ID and sending
said adapter ID to said distribution server,
media ID detecting means for extracting said media ID from said
storage media and sending said media ID to said distribution server,
encryption conversion means,
key encryption means,
storage media access means for writing and reading data in and from
said storage media, and
media access process control means for controlling the writing and
reading in and from said storage media by said storage media access
means,

said distribution server includes

secure communication means,
sending and receiving means for sending and receiving information
and the digital data to and from said receiving device,
a distribution front end for creating information to be sent to the user

and processing accesses by the user,

a user administration database that stores user IDs and account information of related users,

a digital data administration database that stores storage location information and use conditions of digital data to be distributed,

an obtained rights administration database that stores information regarding a right to receive distribution of digital data that each user has obtained,

a history database that stores information regarding digital data that has been distributed to users in the past,

an adapter administration database that stores adapter IDs of adapters that each user uses,

a storage media administration database that stores media IDs of storage medias that each user uses,

distribution digital data storage means for storing digital data that is encrypted with a first encryption system, and a decryption key that decrypts the digital data encrypted with the first encryption system, and

digital data distribution means for sending to said receiving device the encrypted digital data and the decryption key that are stored in said distribution digital data storage means, based on a direction from said distribution front end, the digital data being encrypted with the first encryption system,

said encryption conversion means decrypts the digital data which is encrypted with the first encryption system and distributed by said digital data distribution means with the decryption key that has been distributed by said digital data distribution means, and encrypts the decrypted digital data with a

second encryption system,

 said key encryption means encrypts the key that has been used when said encryption conversion means encrypted the digital data with the second encryption system, using said media ID detected by said media ID detecting means,

 said storage media access control means writes in said storage media the key encrypted by said key encryption means, by controlling said storage media access means,

 said secure communication means of said adapter and said secure communication means of said distribution server communicate with each other, thereby establishing a secure communication path between said adapter and said distribution server,

 the communication between each structural element within said adapter and each structural element within said distribution server is conducted through said secure communication path that has been established,

 said distribution front end authorizes a user based on said adapter ID sent from said adapter ID detecting means, and

 said distribution front end determines whether the digital data with respect to which distribution is requested can be distributed, by referring to said obtained rights administration database, said history database, said digital data administration database, and said storage media administration database, in order to execute processes in response to a request for distribution of digital data from the authorized user.

4. A digital distribution control method for controlling distribution of digital data, wherein

 in said digital distribution system as set forth in any of claims 1-3,

said distribution front end authorizes a user based on said adapter ID sent from said adapter ID detecting means, and

 said distribution front end determines whether the digital data with respect to which distribution is requested can be distributed, by referring to said obtained rights administration database, said history database, said digital data administration database, and said storage media administration database, in order to execute processes in response to a request for distribution of digital data from the authorized user.

5. The digital data distribution system as set forth in any of claims 1-3, wherein

 said adapter includes secure communication means updating means for updating said secure communication means of said adapter, and

 said distribution server includes

 secure communication means updating means for updating said secure communication means of said distribution server, and
 secure communication means update direction means for directing said secure communication updating means within said adapter and said secure communication updating means within said distribution server to update said secure communication means.